

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraphs 1-3 with the following:

RELATED APPLICATIONS ~~FIELD OF THE INVENTION~~

[0001] This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/316,740 filed August 31, 2001 and to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/235,136 filed on September 14, 2002 entitled "Digital Cancellation Mark", now US Patent No. 6,694,874, issued on February 24, 2005. The contents of the above applications are relied upon and expressly incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein. ~~the U.S. Utility Application No. 10/235,136 filed on September 14, 2002 entitled "Digital Cancellation Mark." The contents of the above applications are relied upon and expressly incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.~~

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present invention relates to a method of printing postal cancellation marks. More specifically the invention is a method of printing cancellation marks in a multitude of colors and patterns. The cancellation marks may be printed on typical postal forms such as letters, envelopes, and packages. The method provides cancellation marks with an aesthetic appearance and a cachet of durability estimated up to 200 years. The method further provides means that allow options in the printing of cancellation marks.

BACKGROUND ~~OF THE INVENTION~~ ART

[0003] Cancellation of a postage stamp historically has been achieved by defacing the stamp. The defacing prevents the re-use of the stamp. This cancellation procedure in the United States has evolved into standard designs. These designs are used throughout the domestic postal system. Typically a cancellation mark consists of round date cancels or killer bar cancels.

Please replace paragraph 18 with the following:

[0018] FIG. 4 is another representation of another pictorial cancellation and FIG. 5 depicts an exemplary method.

Please replace paragraphs 35 with the following:

[0035] Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4 illustrate the variability the present invention offers. The figures are examples of pictorial cancellations. The pictorials themselves are composed of multiple colors, as for example, the three colors of the American flag. The content of the pictorial may also be adapted to unique events such as Valentines Day or sporting events. Figure 5 shows a method 500 with steps disclosed here: 510: Creating a partially-designed pictorial cancellation mark in electronic form; 520: Providing a plurality of the partially-designed pictorial cancellation marks to a customer; 530: Selecting a particular said partially-designed pictorial cancellation mark chosen by the a customer; 540: Adding customer-supplied information to the partially-designed pictorial cancellation mark so as to create a customized cancellation mark; 550: Applying said customized pictorial cancellation mark to a mailpiece.